

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

552D0714

SENATE BILL NO. 178

Introduced by: Senators Hainje, Frederick, Paisley, and Vitter and Representatives Brown (Richard), Munson (Donald), Peterson, and Richter

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise the school term.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 Section 1. That § 13-26-1 be amended to read as follows:

4 13-26-1. The school fiscal year shall begin July first and end June thirtieth. ~~A school day shall~~
5 ~~be at least five and one-half hours, exclusive of intermissions, and at least two and three-fourths~~
6 ~~hours shall count as a half day. The time specified as a "school day" shall not apply below grade~~
7 ~~four.~~ Each local school board shall set the number of days in a school term. A school term for
8 grades one to five, inclusive, shall consist of at least nine hundred hours; for grades six to eight,
9 inclusive, shall consist of at least nine hundred fifty hours; and for grades nine to twelve,
10 inclusive, shall consist of at least one thousand hours, exclusive of intermissions. An
11 "intermission" is the time when pupils are at recess or lunch.

12 Section 2. That § 13-26-2 be amended to read as follows:

13 13-26-2. The school board or governing body shall operate grades one through twelve in its
14 schools for at least a nine-month regular term in any one school year. The regular school term
15 may be conducted on a year-round basis, ~~but for grades one through twelve shall consist of~~
16 ~~school actually in session for at least one hundred seventy-five days~~ and shall begin on a date

1 established by the school board. The ~~State~~ Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant
2 to chapter 1-26 governing the operation and scheduling of year-round schools. ~~The rules may~~
3 ~~allow deviations from the one hundred seventy-five day requirement in this section and from the~~
4 ~~five and one-half hour per day requirement in § 13-26-1 if the total school term hours~~
5 ~~requirement in § 13-26-2.1 is met.~~ The local school board or governing body may establish the
6 school term for kindergarten programs. Any school board or governing body may release
7 graduating high school seniors from school before the end of the regular term if the release is for
8 no more than three days. Make up days for school closing because of weather, disease, or
9 emergency need not exceed ten days. Graduating seniors are excused from make up days if the
10 make up days occur after the students have graduated or after graduation exercises have been
11 held. If classes have been convened and then are dismissed because of inclement weather, that
12 day constitutes a day in session equal to the number of hours planned for that day as established
13 in the local school district calendar for the year.

14 School boards are encouraged to provide days within the regular school term for curriculum
15 and staff development which shall be in addition to the ~~one hundred seventy-five~~ days required
16 in this section. Each school board shall determine the appropriate number of days for this activity
17 and how best to use the time based on local needs for program development, increased parent
18 participation, student contact, teachers' preparation, or other needs of the schools in the district.
19 School shall be in session only when classes are held and as provided in §§ 13-26-4 and
20 13-26-4.1. A school board may operate a special term during the summer months.

21 Section 3. That § 13-26-2.1 be amended to read as follows:

22 13-26-2.1. Notwithstanding §§ 13-26-1 and 13-26-2, each local school board may establish
23 the length of a school day and the number of school days in a school week, ~~provided. However,~~
24 the number of school hours in a school term for grades ~~four through twelve~~ one to twelve,
25 inclusive, may not be less than ~~nine hundred sixty-two and one-half hours, exclusive of~~

1 ~~intermission. A plan to establish a school term pursuant to this section must first be approved by~~
2 ~~the South Dakota Board of Education~~ the numbers set forth in § 13-26-2.1. The ~~state~~ Board of
3 Education may adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 1-26, regulating the ~~approval~~ review and revision
4 of local district plans.